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Amendment Address to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231	Attorney Docket	BERK-005
	First Named Inventor	Liu *et al.*
	Application Number	09/721,543
	Filing Date	November 21, 2000
	Group Art Unit	1636
	Examiner Name	Q. Nguyen
	Title: "*Polynucleotide Ligands as Antiviral Agents*"	

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated June 19, 2002, which set a three-month period for response.

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 3, line 17 to page 4, line 12, and replace with the following rewritten paragraphs:

--[Figure 1. (A)] Figures 1A-1B. Figure 1B. Schematic representation of the evolution *in vitro* procedures to select RNA analogs that bind to HCMV particles. The pool of DNA molecules contained a randomized sequence of 40 nucleotides indicated as N. (Figure 1B) Increased binding affinity of the populations of RNA analogs during selection from cycle 0 to cycle 16. Binding assays were carried out with different concentrations of virus and a trace amount (<100 fmol) of ligands. The values of binding affinity were calculated by dividing the percentage of bound ligands with the concentration of HCMV used (μg protein /ml). Each point represents the mean of duplicate measurements.

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[Figure 2.] Figures 2A-2B Binding affinity of the selected ligands to HCMV. (Figure 2A). 1 nM of different selected ligands were allowed to bind to different concentrations of HCMV particles. The values for the percentage of binding represent the mean of triplicate experiments and are not significantly different when 0.1 nM-5nM of ligands were used in the binding assays. (Figure 2B). 1 nM of radiolabeled L13 was allowed to bind to $1x10^5$ pfu/ml (about 30 μg viral protein/ml) HCMV in